



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/852,712	05/11/2001	Christian Toure	B-0692-US-PK/DO	5186

466 7590 03/18/2003

YOUNG & THOMPSON  
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET 2ND FLOOR  
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

LUONG, SHIAN TINH NHAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3728

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/852,712

Applicant(s)

TOURRE ET AL.

PR

Examiner

Shian T. Luong

Art Unit

3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 23-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-22 and 30-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 3728

***Election/Restrictions***

1. New claims 23-29 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species. Election was made in Paper No.6.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. Claims 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase "directions of folding of the panels with respect to outer fold lines of the three fold lines being mutually opposing" is very confusing and indefinite. Applicant should rephrase the claim to an extent wherein the interior surface of the two outer panels are folded in an outwardly manner with respect to the two inner panels adjacent to the center fold line. Also, the phrase "sixteen layers of absorbent paper" should be sixteen equal areas within the tissue.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 16-22 and 30-31 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art shown in Figures 1-2 and disclosed on page 4 over Reinheimer et al (US 5,184,725) or Wewers (US 5,244,025) and Williams. Admitted Prior Art discloses generally all of the elements of the claims, but lacks a square package. But providing a variety of shapes

Art Unit: 3728

including square shaped is a conventional design in packaging art. Reinheimer et al teach a square shaped package as an alternative tissue package. Wewers teaches a square shaped package for receiving contents therein. Admitted Prior Art does not specifically teach the folding of the papers. Williams, however, teaches an absorbent paper as shown in Figure 3 wherein the paper is folded at line 16 and then respectively at 17. Thereafter, the transversely folded paper may be folded along the longitudinal centerline 14 and then along the parallel equal spaced longitudinal fold line 15. In Figure 6, an alternative folding method is shown wherein the two outer panels formed by fold lines 17 are folded outwardly while the interior panels are folded in an opposing direction. The assembly displayed a M-shaped configuration when viewed from an end thereof. It would have been obvious to fold the absorbent paper in the manner as taught by Williams for the package of Admitted Prior Art to store the absorbent paper in a compact manner. Also, it would have been obvious to determine the desired height and width such as 50 and 58 mm, respectively, through routine experiment.

5. Claims 16-22 and 30-31 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Focke et al (US 5,018,625) or Regenstein et al (US 4,460,088) in view of Reinheimer et al (US 5,184,725) or Wewers (US 5,244,025) and William. Focke et al disclose a package comprising packs for stacks of folded paper tissues. The package has perforations as a means for tearing open the package. An adhesive strip is attached to the front portion to provide a reclosable opening. Regenstein also shows a soft pack consisting of a plastic film. Perforations 29,30 extending inwardly from corners 27,28 of the pack. An adhesive strip 40 is applied to facilitate reclosing. Neither Focke et al or Regenstein et al disclose a square package. But providing a variety of shapes including square shaped is a conventional design in packaging art.

Art Unit: 3728

Reinheimer et al teach a square shaped package as an alternative tissue package. Wewers teaches a square shaped package for receiving contents therein. Williams, however, teaches an absorbent paper as shown in Figure 3 wherein the paper is folded at line 16 and then respectively at 17. Thereafter, the transversely folded paper may be folded along the longitudinal centerline 14 and then along the parallel equal spaced longitudinal fold line 15. In Figure 6, an alternative folding method is shown wherein the two outer panels formed by fold lines 17 are folded outwardly while the interior panels are folded in an opposing direction. The assembly displayed a M-shaped configuration when viewed from an end thereof. Hence, it would have been obvious in view of Reinheimer et al or Wewers and William to provide square shaped package for the package of Regenstein et al or Focke et al since they would work equally well and to store the tissue papers in a compact storage position. Also, it would have been obvious to determine the desired height and width such as 50 and 58 mm, respectively, through routine experiment.

### *Conclusion*

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

Art Unit: 3728

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


Telephone inquiries regarding the status of applications or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to the examiners. In as much as the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining groups, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information without contacting the examiners, M.P.E.P. 203.08. The **Group clerical receptionist number is (703) 308-1148** or the **Tech Center 3700 Customer Service Center number is (703) 306-5648**.

If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g., copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, form PTO-892, etc., requests for copies of such papers should be directed to Donna Monroe at (703) 308-2209.

For applicant's convenience, the Group Technological Center FAX number is (703) 305-3579 or (703)305-3580. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify Examiner Luong of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet of any correspondence submitted.

Inquiries concerning the merits of the examination should be directed to Shian Luong whose telephone number is (703) 308-2039. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F from 7:00am to 4:00pm EST.

STL  
March 13, 2003

  
Primary Examiner  
Shian Luong  
Art Unit 3728